Calculation of BPL population

*156. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some new methods have been adopted to measure poverty and calculate the number of people Below Poverty Line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a number of States have raised several questions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. The present method used by the Planning Commission for estimation of poverty is based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' (Lakdawala Committee). The Expert Group, which was constituted in September, 1989 submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993. A full Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in March, 1997 accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications. Since then the estimates of poverty at National and State level are being made using the Expert Group methodology.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has received representation from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Orissa in the matter of choice of the methodology of estimation of poverty. The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka urged that in estimating poverty the impact of the price depressing effect of the food subsidy scheme, funded from the State Exchequer, be eliminated. The Government of Andhra Pradesh at a later stage urged that estimates should be made on the basis of earlier methodology of poverty estimation, known as the Task Force method. The Government of Orissa had urged that the national level poverty line be adopted for estimating poverty in the State.

After carefully considering the representations, the Planning Commission decided to continue with the Expert Group methodology

(Lakdawala formula). However, by eliminating the impact of the state-sponsored food subsidy scheme, the Planning Commission has raised the poverty ratio of Andhra Pradesh from 22.19% to 25.68% for exclusive use in the matter of allocation of foodgrain under Targeted Public Distribution Scheme (TPDS).

Installation of medical gas pipe line at ESI hospital in Bangalore

*157. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for installation of medical gas pipe line to start the Cardiothoracic unit of the Employees State Insurance Hospital at Indirapuram, Bangalore, submitted by the State Government is pending with Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when a decision is expected to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA) (a) and (b) No such proposal is pending with the Government of India. However, the ESI Corporation had received a revised request from the Government of Karnataka to accord its concurrence for installing a medical gas pipeline at the ESI Hospital, Indiranagar, Bangalore. The approval of ESIC has recently been conveyed to the State Government.

Women workers in Government sector

*158. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of women employees in Government sector has come down:

(b) the percentage of women at present in PSU banks and other PSUs; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to increase the number of women employees in these organizations?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.